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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,150	07/16/2003	Matthew Louis Courcy	NSC-P05579	1923

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, HOWARD L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 11/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/622,150

Applicant(s)

COURCY, MATTHEW LOUIS

Examiner

Howard L. Williams

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration:
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

Claim 24 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 24 reads:

24. The system of claim 19, wherein the internal clock signal is for use by and analog to digital converter coupled to do clock signal duty cycle stabilization circuit.

Poor construction aside, everything in claim 24 is seen to appear in claim 19 lines 5-8; thus, claim 24 fails to further limit claim 19.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ma (US 6320437). The “clock pulse generator” (30; fig. 2) provides edge detection that receives an external clock signal at input 33 and provides an output to latch (10;fig. 2) which is an S-R flip-flop. The clock pulse generator includes a NAND gate (N1) and delay elements to supply the second NAND gate input.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.


Claims 7-12 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ma (US 6320437) in view of Huynh (US 20030107432 A1). Ma discloses the clock duty cycle regulator and mentions myriad uses for the improved clock signal but does not explicitly mention an analog-to-digital converter. Huynh discloses a switched capacitor

circuit that is used in an analog-to-digital converter and desires to provide an output each clock cycle and recognizes the need for a 50% duty cycle clock (¶ 0030). The clock duty cycle regulator of Ma would have been an obvious choice to provide a 50% duty cycle clock signal because use of the a cleanly squared clock signal would provide a suitable clock to enable Huynh to achieve the output once each cycle thus increasing the circuit through-put.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stark US 6,323,706 B1 discloses a clock generation circuit including NAND gate edge detection and a S-R flip-flop as the latch; see figure 8. Zheng US 2002/0075730 A1 shows a NAND gate based edge detection (fig. 2A) and latch including an S-R flip-flop. Coleman US 5852286 A discloses a bar code reader including an analog-to-digital converter that is clocked by edge detection element 76 in fig. 10. Lin US 20040203479 A1 discloses a receiver including an analog-to-digital converter and recognizes the need for accurate 50 percent duty cycle clocks which he generates with an edge detection based clock generation circuit.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Howard L. Williams at telephone number 571.272.1815. The Patent and Trademark Office has a new central facsimile number for application specific correspondence intended for entry, it is 703-872-9306.

11/17/04
Voice 571.272.1815


Howard L. Williams
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2819